

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00226 301103Z

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SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENTARY ON AEGEAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

REF: 1) THESSALONIKI'S 202; 2) DEPT'S 86171; 3) THESS A-19,
4/29/74; 4) THESS A-17, 4/19/74

1. IN FRONT PAGE FEATURE ARTICLE TITLED "ONLY THROUGH
WAR", ELLINIKOS VORRAS EDITOR ELIAS KYROU WRITES APRIL 28
THAT ALTHOUGH GREEK PUBLIC HAS ONLY LATELY LEARNED OF TURKISH
PLANS FOR "CONDOMINIUM AND JOINT EXPLOITATION" OF AEGEAN,
THESE ACTUALLY BEGAN LONG AGO. FIRST, HE SAYS, TURKEY IN
1962 ATTEMPTED TO ASSUME "ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL
COMMAND" IN EASTERN AEGEAN, WITH ACTUAL AIM OF "PLACING
HALF OF AEGEAN AND GREEK ISLANDS UNDER CONSTANT TURKISH
SOVEREIGNTY". THIS EFFORT RIGHTLY REJECTED BY NATO, STATES
KYROU, SINCE BLACK SEA DESIGNATED AS TURKISH ZONE OF
RESPONSIBILITY; BUT TURKISH FLEET THERE, "FORMED ENTIRELY
OF AMERICAN LOANS", CERTAIN TO BE "INSTANTLY SUNK" BY
SOVIET AIR AND NEWLY BUILT FLEET.

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00226 301103Z

2. ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, HE CONTINUES, TURKS MADE SECOND EFFORT THROUGH UN, UNDER WHICH SEAS SUCH AS AEGEAN WOULD BE DIVIDED MIDWAY BETWEEN BORDERING CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES, AND ISLANDS THEREIN WOULD ENJOY NO NATIONAL WATERS, CONTINENTAL SHELF, BORDERING OR ECONOMIC ZONE RIGHTS. THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH, SAYS KYROU, WOULD HAVE MADE HALF THE AEGEAN, FROM THASSOS TO CRETE, A "TURKISH SEA", RECEIVED ONLY ONE OTHER VOTE (TUNISIA).

3. TURKEY THEN RETURNED WITH MODIFIED SCHEME, ARTICLE CONTINUES, UNDER WHICH ABOVE RIGHTS ACCORDED ISLAND AREAS, BUT CONDITIONED BY FACTORS OF SIZE, POPULATION, GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO CONTINENTS, AND GEOPHYSICAL FORMATION. THIS PLAN ("FULL OF EASTERN HYPOCRISY") ALSO REJECTED AT UN, CARRYING ONLY 6 COUNTRIES OUT OF 149.

4. TURKISH INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPERTS THEN DRAFTED "EQUALLY OUTRAGEOUS" THIRD PLAN, UNDER WHICH ABOVE FOUR CRITERIA WOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO ECONOMIC OR TRADITIONAL WATERS ZONE WHICH, IN CASE OF LATIN-AMERICAN AND SOME AFRO-ASIANS IS CONSIDERED TWO HUNDRED MILES WIDE, SAYS KYROU. HOW, HE ASKS, COULD THIS CONCEIVABLY BE APPLIED TO NARROW MEDITERRANEAN?

5. AEGEAN, HE CONCLUDES, IS UNDER A "REGIME APPROVED BY TREATY OF 1913 AND THAT OF LAUSANNE OF 1923; THIS HAS REMAINED "INVULNERABLE AND INVOLABLE" THROUGH TREATIES OF WORLD WAR II WHEN "CHURCHILL AND OTHER ALLIES" REJECTED TURKISH DEMANDS AND GAVE GREECE DODECANESE. THIS REGIME, SAYS KYROU, "CAN BE ABOLISHED ONLY THROUGH WAR. THERE CAN BE NO DISCUSSIONS OF ANY KIND ON THIS MATTER". (NOTE SIMILAR ASIDE BY AMB. PANAYOTACOS, REF. 2, PARA 6.) SHOULD THE TURKS ATTEMPT TO ENTER AEGEAN FORCEFULLY, KYROU WARNS, VIOLENCE WILL BE MET WITH VIOLENCE AND TURKS SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS WHATSOEVER.

6. COMMENT: WHETHER KYROU IS ON SOUND HISTORICAL AND LEGAL GROUND IN HIS VERSION AND CONCLUSIONS OF PAST EVENTS, HIS INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE ON SUBJECT IS SHARED BY GREAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WE HAVE TALKED TO HERE, FROM RANKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 THESSA 00226 301103Z

MILITARY OFFICERS TO NORMALLY CALM AND THOUGHTFUL UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (REF. 4). AS ONE PUT IT, "YOU MUST REALIZE THIS IS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE MATTER FOR US; THE TURKS ARE IN A SPECIAL CATEGORY".
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